

Office of the Director

25 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
(National Security Affairs)

SUBJECT : Intelligence Alert Memorandum
Prospects for Lebanon

1. The attached memorandum indicates that the internal conflicts in Lebanon have reached a dangerous level with potentially serious consequences for the region.

2. President Franjiah's dramatic move in appointing a predominantly military government--Lebanon's first since independence--is unlikely to end Lebanon's political crisis or calm the heightened tension among religious groups in the country. The new government, in fact, has encountered such opposition in Lebanon and the region that Prime Minister Rifai may soon be forced to resign.

3. The most hopeful possibility is that the current government or a successor regime will adopt a conciliatory stance and gradually gain wider acceptance of the May 23 cease-fire. At the moment, unfortunately, that accord is threatened by continuing clashes in Beirut.

4. The worst possibility is that the continuing civil unrest could degenerate into civil war, which would threaten Lebanon's governing system, traditional US-Lebanese-Israeli relations, and jeopardize present efforts for a Middle East peace settlement.

5. The Intelligence Community is keeping this situation under close review by both the collection and analytical elements. The judgments in this memorandum

25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2005/01/31 : CIA-RDP79R01142A000600100001-1

have been discussed with the appropriate analytical
elements of CIA, DIA, and State/INR.

25X1



for W. E. Colby

Attachment

Approved For Release 2005/01/31 : CIA-RDP79R01142A000600100001-1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~